

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF DALLAS COUNTY
DALLAS COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number DA-9

Owner Hubert and Ruby Barker

Property Name Fielder House

Address RFD 2

Location Fordyce

Fordyce, AR 71425

Significant Date/s c. 1875 and c. 1910

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Fielder House faces north on Highway 79B just inside the Fordyce city limits. The plan of this gable-roofed structure is that of a central hall house with a rear shed addition to the west and a gable roofed ell to the east. The front facade contains a central door flanked by two six-over-six double hung windows on each side. Shading this facade is a shed roofed porch supported by six square posts. This structure is the result, however, of three separate additions and transformations to an original 1875 log house set on wooden blocks. This log structure now comprises the west pen of the central hall section, the gable end of which contains the original brick chimney. In the 1880's a frame pen was added to the east, creating a dog-trot. A shed addition was built on the rear of the west pen and the dog-trot enclosed in the following decade. In about 1910 the rear ell was added, an attic room built and this entire structure covered with horizontal weatherboard creating the house seen today.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fielder House, located in Fordyce, is the only dwelling remaining from the pre-railroad period or from before the founding of Fordyce, the current county seat. The house is also associated with early 20th century American literature. The house was built by the Fielder family in about 1875. It is the only documented structure in the county to be built in the decade of 1870. Reflecting traditional evolutionary patterns in Arkansas, the house, initially constructed as a long one-pen structure, later became a dog-trot. The Pollard family converted the structure into today's central hall house in about 1910. After this date, the house became associated with the successful early 20th century popular novelist, Harold Bell Wright. In the winter of 1915-1916, Wright visited his father who was then living in the house with his father's sister, Mrs. Pollard. Local interviews revealed that Wright wrote all or part of his widely acclaimed novel, Trail of the Lonesome Pine during this stay. This novel, later adapted for the screen, became the first outdoor technicolor feature film.

Acreage: less than 1

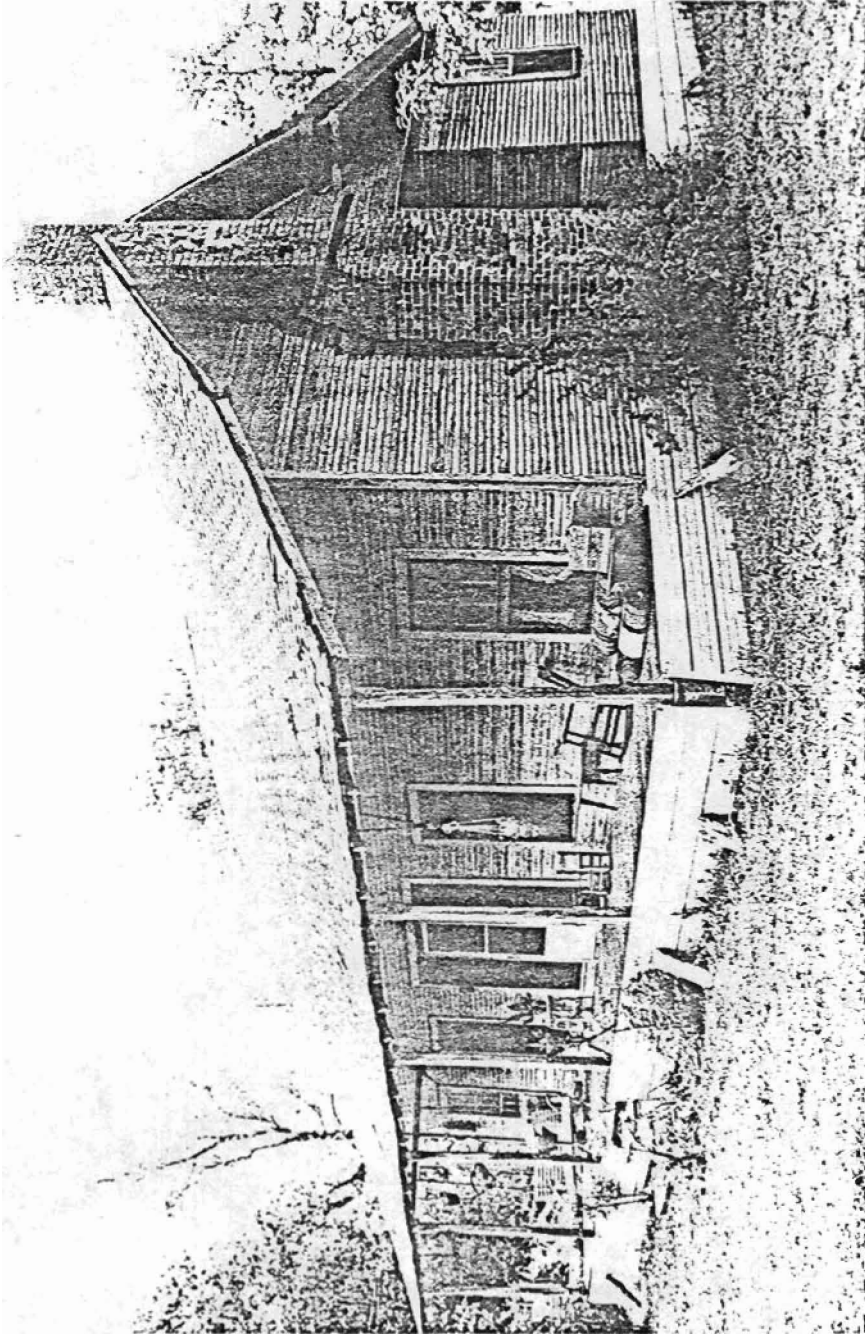
Quadrangle Name: Fordyce

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 552770/3741320

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located within the $W\frac{1}{2}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of the $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of section 33, T10S R13W, is bounded on the north by Highway 79B and on the south, east and west by lines running parallel to and 100' from the south, east and west facades of the house.



DA-9
Fielder House
Don Brown, photographer
June 14, 1982
Negative on file at the AHPP
View from the Northwest